

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Monrovia Community Center Monroe Room  
119 W Palm Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016  
WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Dave Pierce LA County Sanitation District (Agency)  
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)  
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)  
Edward Belden, Monrovia Resident (Community)  
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)  
Jalaine Verdiner, Los Angeles County  
\*Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair  
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

#### Committee Members Not Present:

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency) Vice-Chair  
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community)  
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)  
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)  
Sal Mendez, El Monte (Municipal)  
Sarah Rocha, Irwindale (Municipal)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

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### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Dawn Petschauer, Chair of the Rio Hondo (RH) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff and Chair Petschauer facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established.

District staff and Chair Petschauer provided a brief WebEx tutorial and direction on submission of public comments to the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program website.

### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2023**

Chair Dawn Petschauer presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member David Dolphin motioned to approve, seconded by Member Alex Tachiki. The WASC voted to approve the August 15, 2023, meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, in 1 abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### **3) Committee Member and District Updates**

District staff provided an update, noting:

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- The Board recently approved all nine Stormwater Infrastructure Plans (SIPs) on August 8, 2023. District staff are working on executing the Regional Transfer Agreements.
- The Regional Funding Process Handbook is available on the Safe Clean Water Project website, the handbook provides consolidated resources around the program's practices.
- Quarter 3 FY22-23 Reports were due on May 15, 2023 and Quarter 4 FY22-23 Reports were due on August 15, 2023. Quarterly Reports must still be completed even if no activity was conducted or the Transfer Agreement has not yet been executed, but expenditures have occurred. Infrastructure Program projects and Scientific Studies from Round 4 that had not yet been approved by the Board by the reporting period will not have to submit Quarterly Reports.
- The first term for WASC Community Stakeholder seats ended on June 30, 2023. Community Stakeholders interested in joining the WASC for the next three-year term should submit the [Interest to Serve Form](#). Current seat holders interested in reapplying do not need to submit another form. Current seat holders wishing to step down should inform District staff. There are currently three seats vacant. The candidates will be selected in late fall. Existing members will continue to serve until reappointments have been completed. There are currently three candidates at this point.
- The application deadline for Round 5 was July 31, 2023. Two Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, zero Technical Resources Program (TRP) projects, and one Scientific Study (SS) were submitted to the Rio Hondo WASC. The District is currently finalizing a completeness check on the submitted applications. The Watershed Coordinator will present a summary of submitted projects to the WASC during this meeting so the WASC can vote to send projects to the Scoring Committee.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett update provided an update on Watershed Coordinator activities. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights include participating in a panel on outreach and engagement tracking workshop at California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) Conference and attending Sierra Madre Green Street project meetings with the Technical Assistance Team and the City of Pasadena. Upcoming activities include finalizing changes to the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) and planning a future tour of proposed IP projects.

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett also presented on the Rio Hondo Watershed FY24-25 (Year 5) submitted Projects. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Millett provided a summary of the two submitted IP projects, the South El Monte High School Project and Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project, and the SS, Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity.

Member Julian Juarez asked the Watershed Coordinator team to elaborate on the missed opportunity for a park cleanup. Watershed Coordinators Julie Millett and Watson informed the WASC that due to time constraints and permit hurdles with Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, they could not coordinate the event at Peck Road Park in timely manner. Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett expressed potential plans for a smaller clean up in the near-future and a larger clean up next year.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) reminded the WASC of their ability to look at the SCW Portal and request more details from the project proponents on the projects when they are presented to the WASC.

Regarding the South El Monte High School Project, Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson informed the WASC that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns a significant part of the property. The 60-freeway also drains onto the project site, thus providing a potential opportunity to secure funding from Caltrans.

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Regarding the Scientific Study, Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson noted that it includes elements of Workforce Development and Green Infrastructure training and will generate peer-reviewed documents that emphasize pretreatment and maintenance.

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millet shared a screenshot of the SCW Portal Projects Map for the Rio Hondo Watershed. The interactive map can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Julie Millet additionally identified the need for projects in the western and southern parts of the watershed.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Julie Millet explained the symbology for the map icons. TRP projects are represented by a hammer, IP projects are represented by a water drop, and Scientific Studies are represented by a microscope.

Chair Dawn Petschauer asked if the symbol changes when a project changes from TRP to an IP project and how the District currently handles this situation. District staff clarified the project's TRP and IP phases would remain separate on the database, but the dashboard would show an Infrastructure Project due to maps layers not having the ability show both symbols if they are both on the same coordinate.

Member Mark Hall asked why the University is pursuing public funding for the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Scientific Study. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson noted that the Study proponents are both building in research design to aid other projects and Workforce Development to adapt into the program. Project proponents have integrated these elements into the projects and seek funding to help offset internal cost. Mike Antos shared the SCW Program was designed to support scientific research in support of achieving its Safe Clean Water goals.

#### **5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

Member Tom Love met with Cal Poly Pomona about the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Scientific Study before the project was submitted.

Chair Dawn Petschauer and Member Brent Maue disclosed their work for the City of Pasadena and involvement in the Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project.

#### **6) Public Comment Period**

No public comments were made.

#### **7) Presentations and Discussion Items**

##### **a) Continue Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary FY22-23 Q1 & Q2**

District staff presented the FY22-23 Regional Quarterly Report Summary (Q1-Q2) and highlighted to project modifications.

Travis Diaz (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works) provided further explanation of the Baldwin Lake & Tule Pond Restoration Project. Travis Diaz shared the modification is regarding a typo to the A10 work schedule and has been updated to reflect the updated date and the start of the construction. Upon inquiry, Travis Diaz clarified that the update does not have any large impacts to the project.

District staff shared that a project modification process is currently being developed. District staff noted that an addendum is needed if the project is delayed by even one week within the new process. Once the guidelines are available, District staff will decide whether to present each modification to the WASC if more discussion is required.

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Kevin Lai (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) provided an update on Alhambra Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project. Kevin Lai shared that the schedule has been adjusted due to the project showing an incorrect completion date. The schedule is now updated to show the correct date, bringing it up to date with the rest of the proposal.

#### **b) Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan**

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millet reminded the WASC that Member Daniel Rossman would like language added into the SOEP that develops an outreach metric for sending grant information to community-based organizations, and had committed to drafting example language. However, that work has not been completed yet.

Member Tom Love asked if the SOEP can be approved without Member Daniel Rossman's updates. Chair Dawn Petschauer confirmed the SOEP can be approved during the Voting Items section of the meeting. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson also expressed desire to add updated Census data to the SOEP, and the possibility of approving the SOEP and updating the data periodically.

#### **c) Review of WASC Roles & Responsibilities**

Mike Antos presented an overview of the SCW Program and WASC members' roles and responsibilities. The presentation can be found on the SCW Program [website](#). Mike Antos summarized the SCW Program funded projects to date, current and future timelines, and guidelines for SIP development and continuous evaluation of funded projects.

Mike Antos presented various resources available for WASC members, both inside and outside of meetings, to use as reference for deliberation. Funding memos will be a new resource this year that will be generated for each SCW Program IP Project application to identify leveraged funding sources and aid the WASC in project prioritization and use of the Partial Funding guidelines. The SCW Program adopted an Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot in use for the projects recently submitted.

Upon inquiry, District staff clarified that most projects who qualified did use the pilot method, however, the District did not score each project on both scales. New projects may benefit from the pilot, but it is not yet known if all projects meet the 60-point threshold to be considered in the new pilot program.

Mike Antos also demonstrated how WASC members can navigate the SCW Portal and Project Module and benefit from their special access to materials there.

Member Brent Maue asked if older projects could come back to the WASC to request additional funding. Mike Antos noted that the Project Modification Guidelines under development will provide more guidance on the situation where a project may discover a funding shortfall.

During this presentation, Member Edward Belden left the meeting.

#### **d) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

Chair Dawn Petschauer asked if potential Caltrans funding support for the South El Monte High School Project would interfere with the USACE ownership of the underlying land. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson does not anticipate any interference and will bring updates when available from Caltrans. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson additionally noted that some municipalities were successful in securing Caltrans funding, but the State Water Board felt that there were some issues with both Caltrans and municipalities receiving water quality compliance credit for the projects being co-funded, and that there is discussion about how to allow both organizations to receive credit.

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Member Mark Hall asked if there is a Caltrans mandate to manage runoff. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson stated Caltrans also has a mandate to cooperate with municipalities.

#### **8) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **9) Voting Items**

##### **a) Vote to approve the Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan**

Member Tom Love motioned to approve the Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. Member Brent Maue seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 10 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 votes in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

##### **b) Vote to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration.**

Member Alex Tachiki motioned to send all feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration. Member David Dolphin seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 10 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 votes in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

#### **10) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. See the SCWP website for details.

#### **11) Adjournment**

Chair Dawn Petschauer thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation.

Chair Dawn Petschauer additionally requested Committee Members review projects on the SCW Portal in preparation for the next meeting. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson shared that the Watershed Coordinators are looking for smaller projects in the Rio Hondo Watershed and to please share if they have any ideas for future projects.

Chair Dawn Petschauer will share information with District Staff about the Pre-SIPs and the Fire Effects Scientific Studies to include in future meetings. Chair Dawn Petschauer adjourned the meeting.

RH WASC - September 19, 2023								
	Quorum Present				Voting Item			
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 08/15/2023 Meeting Minutes	Approve the Updated 2023 RH Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan	Vote to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration.	
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Jennifer Aborida		Y	Y	Y	
Agency	Tom Love	X	Patty Cortez		Y	Y	Y	
Agency	Kelly Gardner		Tony Zampielo					
Agency	Dave Pierce	X	Alysha Chan		Y	Y	Y	
Agency	Brent Maue	X	Kris Markarian		A	Y	Y	
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong		Bryan Matsumoto					
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman							
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel		Y	Y	Y	
Community Stakeholder	Edward Belden	X			Y			
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman		Liliana Griego					
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	X	Latoya Waters		Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Briget Arndell	X	Paul Cranmer		Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Jalaine Verdiner	X	Fernando Villaluna		Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington		Alex Tachiki	x	Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Sal Mendez							
Municipal Members	Dawn Petschauer	x	James Tong		Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Sarah Rocha							
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	X	Julie Millett					
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	10	10	10	0
Total Voting Members Present	11			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency	4			Abstain (A)	1	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder	2			Total	11	10	10	0
Municipal Members	5				Approved	Approved	Approved	Not Approved



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### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	kelly@watermaster.org	P	
Brent Maue	City of Pasadena Department of Public Works	Bmaue@cityofpasadena.net	P	
<del>Kristen Ruffell</del> - DAVE PIERCE	Sanitation Districts	<del>kruffell@lacsdsd.org</del> dpierce	P	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel District	tom@usgvmwd.org	P	
Thomas Wong	San Gabriel Valley MWD Division 3	thomaswong05@gmail.com	P	
Michael Hurley	Cal Water	mhurley00@gmail.com	P	
Ron Miller	LA/OC Building Trades	rmiller@laocbuildintrades.org	P	
Daniel Rossman	The Wilderness Society	daniel_rossman@tw.s.org	P	
Mark Hall	Vector Control	mhall@glacvcd.org	P	
David Dolpin	Alhambra	ddolphin@cityofalhambra.org	P	
<del>Vanessa Hevener</del> BRIGET ARNOLD	Arcadia	<del>vhevener@ArcadiaCA.gov</del> BARNDELL	P	
<del>Mark Lombos</del> KLAINE NGAD	Los Angeles County	<del>MLOMBOS@dpw.lacounty.gov</del> JOVIMILE	P	
Gloria Crudginton	Monrovia	gcrudginton@ci.monrovia.ca.us	P	
Frank Lopez	Monterey Park	flopez@montereypark.ca.gov	P	
<del>Sean Singletary</del> Dawn Peterschauer	Pasadena	<del>ssingletary@cityofpasadena.net</del>	P	

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### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
James Carlson	Sierra Madre	jcarlson@cityofsierramadre.com	P	
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Tony Zampielo	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	tony@watermaster.org	A	
Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts	mtremblay@lacsds.org	A	
Robert Tock	Upper San Gabriel District		A	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature for All	bryan@lanatureforall.org	A	
Liliana Griego	Friends of the Los Angeles River	liliana@folar.org	A	
Mark Daniel	Vector Control	mdaniel@glacvcd.org	A	
Eddie Chan	Arcadia	echan2@ArcadiaCA.gov	A	
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	lwaters@cityofalhambra.org	A	
Fernando Villaluna	Los Angeles County	FVILLALUNA@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Sean Sullivan	Monrovia	ssullivan@ci.monrovia.ca.us	A	
Mark A. McAvoy	Monterey Park	mmcavoy@MontereyPark.ca.gov	A	
Kris Markarian	Pasadena	kmarkarian@cityofpasadena.net	A	
Chris Cimino	Sierra Madre	CCimino@cityofsierramadre.com	A	



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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Julie Millett	RWA	jmillett@rwaplanning.com	
<del>Robert Gonzalez</del>	LACPW		
Edward Baldwin	Community		
Richard Watson	RWA	rwat@rwaplanning.com	